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HOUSE MEMORIAL 2

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

INTRODUCED BY

Danice Picraux

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION TO CONVENE A  
GROUP OF EXPERTS TO PLAN FOR STATE-FUNDED, NATIONALLY  
ACCREDITED PRIMARY CARE RESIDENCY SLOTS AND ROTATIONS.

WHEREAS, primary care providers form the backbone of  
necessary basic and preventive health services in New Mexico;  
and

WHEREAS, during the past five decades, there has been a  
drastic decrease in the supply of primary care physicians due  
to the increase in numbers of specialist physicians trained in  
high-cost, high-technology health care at the expense of health  
care designed to prevent illness and maintain the health of  
individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, while there are diminishing numbers of primary  
care dentists being trained in the United States, there is an

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1 increased demand for dentistry in New Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, access to preventive and primary health care  
3 services is crucial to providing affordable health care and  
4 health care accessible to more individuals; and

5 WHEREAS, in most countries where there are universal or  
6 national health care systems, there is a recognition of the  
7 necessity of keeping health care affordable by maintaining a  
8 one-to-one ratio of primary care physicians to specialists; and

9 WHEREAS, in the United States, health care costs are  
10 increasing dramatically year by year, in part because the ratio  
11 of primary care physicians to specialists is closer to twenty  
12 primary care physicians to eighty specialists; and

13 WHEREAS, there is a need in New Mexico for over one  
14 hundred fifty primary care physicians, but only around twenty-  
15 four primary care physicians are trained in the state every  
16 year; and

17 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature and the United States  
18 congress have recognized the importance of primary care by  
19 passing legislation to provide over one hundred forty primary  
20 care locations across New Mexico; and

21 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature and the United States  
22 congress have funded policy improvements, such as training  
23 programs for nurse practitioners, physician assistants and  
24 family physician residencies, in order to improve access to  
25 primary care; and

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1           WHEREAS, primary care centers such as those funded by the  
2 New Mexico legislature and by the United States congress should  
3 be staffed whenever possible with high-quality health  
4 professionals from the communities they serve; and

5           WHEREAS, more medical students may choose primary care if  
6 reimbursement formulas and medical education programs were to  
7 be changed to reward and produce more primary care physicians;

8           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico  
10 health policy commission be requested to convene a task force  
11 of experts by June 1, 2008 for the purpose of planning for new  
12 or expanded state-funded, nationally accredited primary  
13 medical, dental and other residency programs, including  
14 rotations in communities where there is a documented  
15 underservice and shortage of these services in clinics and  
16 hospitals; and

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
18 examine other conditions impacting provider training decisions  
19 and retention factors and then report its recommendation on how  
20 these conditions may improve access to primary medical and  
21 dental services; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its  
23 findings and recommendations to the legislative health and  
24 human services committee by September 1, 2008; and

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the chair of the New Mexico health policy  
2 commission.

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